



STATE OF
COLORADO

Simmons - DNR, Leigh <leigh.simmons@state.co.us>

SL13 and SL14 Adequacy Letter Response

Poulos, Nicki <npoulos@archrsc.com>

Mon, Aug 16, 2021 at 12:51 PM

To: "Simmons - DNR, Leigh" <leigh.simmons@state.co.us>

Cc: "Welt, Kathy" <KWelt@archrsc.com>

Hi Leigh,

Here are our responses to your Adequacy Letters for SL-13 and SL-14.

Please let me know if you have any more questions.

Thank you,

Nicki Poulos

Environmental Engineer

Mountain Coal Co. LLC

West Elk Mine

5174 HWY 133

Somerset, CO 81434

(Work) 970-929-2219

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2 attachments



SL-13 Adequacy response letter.docx

85K

8/16/2021

State.co.us Executive Branch Mail - SL13 and SL14 Adequacy Letter Response



SL-14 Adequacy Response letter.docx

76K



Nicki Poulos
Environmental Engineer I
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Mountain Coal Company, LLC
A subsidiary of Arch Resources, Inc.
West Elk Mine
5174 Highway 133
Somerset, CO 81434

Mr. Leigh Simmons
Colorado Department of Natural Resources
Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety
1313 Sherman Street, Room 215
Denver, CO 80203
August 16, 2021

Re: West Elk Mine (Permit No. C-1980-007)
Surety Release No. 14, (SL-14)
Initial Adequacy Review

Dear Mr. Simmons,

Mountain Coal Company, LLC (MCC), Permit No. C-1980-007, submits this letter in response to your adequacy letter dated June 25, 2021, regarding MCC's SL-14 Bond Release application for the West Elk Mine. MCC has copied the comments from your letter and provided our responses after each comment.

Please contact me or Kathy Welt with any other questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nicki Poulos".

Nicki Poulos
Environmental Engineer

“1. Although holes E7-6, E7-8, E7-9 and E8-6 have been plugged and abandoned, the pads associated with them have not been reclaimed and are not yet eligible for Phase I Bond Release. In the past the Division has incorrectly included plugged and abandoned holes on unreclaimed pads in Phase I Bond Releases. This practice was a misinterpretation of the rules, and tends to lead to confusion. For example, the E3-29 hole was included in SL-10 (with no acres released); the E3-29 pad was subsequently included in the SL-13 Phase II application, despite never having actually been reclaimed. It is helpful to think of the hole and the pad as a single unit which is eligible for Phase I Bond Release when the hole has been plugged and abandoned, AND the pad has been backfilled and graded.

Please withdraw E7-6, E7-8, E7-9 and E8-6 from the SL-14 application.”

MVBs that were P&A'd only and the site has not yet been reclaimed have been removed from SL-14 application. The table below has been corrected as such.

“2. The following holes are not associated with disturbed acreage – per previous communication with MCC they were either drilled without a pad or were drilled on previously existing pads. They have not received Phase I Bond Release, and the only reclamation task associated with them is plugging and abandonment, which is a Phase I task.

- RPEE I12-04
- RPEE I12-05
- Well 96-2-2
- Well SOM-3B
- Well SOM-3E

Please withdraw these holes from the SL-13 application and include them with the SL-14 Partial Phase I application.”

The sites for hydrology monitoring wells 96-2-2, SOM-3B, and SOM-3E were reclaimed several years ago and more recently the wells were P&A'd. The sites were never included in a Phase 1 bond release application, so they were removed from the SL-13 application and added to the SL-14 application.

RPEE inclinometer holes I12-04 and I12-05 are still in use and are not included in the SL-14 application

SL-14 Phase I Bond Release Table

<u>MCC Site Name / MVB Number</u>	<u>Total Number of Acres Reclaimed</u>
E6-13 & Road	0.81
E7-1 & Road	0.69
E7-2 & Road	0.40
E7-3 & Road	0.71
E7-4 & Road	2.25
E7-5 & Road	1.09
E7-7 & Road	0.74
E7-10	0.61
E7-11	0.50
E8-1 & Road	0.71
E8-2 & Road	0.47
E8-3 & Road	0.75
E8-4	0.54
E8-5 & Road	0.76
E8-7 & Road	1.02
Well 96-2-2	0.60
Well SOM- 3B and 3E	0.48